

CLAIMS

1. A fixing apparatus comprising:

a heating medium that heat-fixes an unfixed image
5 onto a recording medium;

a heating section that heats said heating medium;
and

a sheet separation guide plate having a guide surface
that guides a heat-fixing surface of said recording medium,
10 on which said unfixed image has been heat-fixed and that
is transported along a predetermined sheet path, in a
direction of separation from said heating medium;

wherein there is provided on said guide surface of
said sheet separation guide plate a step part raised along
15 a guide width direction of said guide surface.

2. The fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
said step part is configured from a plurality of projecting
parts provided in a sheet guide width direction and a
20 recess formed between said projecting parts.

3. The fixing apparatus according to claim 2, wherein,
comparing said projecting part located on a sheet guide
width direction downstream side with said projecting part
25 located on a sheet guide width direction upstream side,
said projecting part located on said sheet guide width
direction downstream side is located so that an apex

thereof is positioned further toward said heating section than a peripheral surface of said heating medium.

4. The fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein
5 there is provided a sheet transportation path forming member on said sheet transportation direction downstream side of said sheet separation guide plate that causes said recording medium separated from said heating medium and guided by said guide surface of said sheet separation
10 guide plate to curve toward said heat-fixing surface side.

5. The fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein heights of both guide width direction end parts of said step part provided on said guide surface of said sheet
15 separation guide plate are made greater than a height of a guide width direction center part of said step part.

6. The fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein a guide width direction center edge opposite said heating
20 medium of said guide surface of said sheet separation guide plate is formed so as to project toward a sheet transportation direction upstream side more than both guide width direction end parts of said guide surface.

25 7. The fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said guide surface of said sheet separation guide plate is covered with low-friction material.

8. The fixing apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said sheet separation guide plate is a metal plate.

5 9. An image forming apparatus comprising:

an image forming section that forms an unfixed image on a recording medium; and

a fixing section that heat-fixes an unfixed image formed on said recording medium by said image forming

10 section by means of a heated heating medium;

wherein the fixing apparatus according to claim 1 is used as said fixing section.